ing/Super Star Trading House. Transitional arrangements are provided to provisionally recognise export/ Trading/Star Trading/Super Star Trading House for a 6 month period during which they can seek renewal/ up gradation of their status. The Export/Trading/Star Trading/Super Star Trading House status holders will also be allowed to import one/ two/three/five cars(s) respectively as a one-time facility.

15. The scope of importability of items against Special Import Licence granted to Export/Trading/Star Trading House and manufacturer exporters with ISO 9000 or BIS 14000 certification is being increased so as to render the scheme more attractive.

16. One time import of cars is now permitted to Export Houses/Trading Houses/Star Trading Houses/Super Star Trading Houses on payment of customs duty in free foreign exchange from their EEPC Account so that they are able to service the visiting business delegations better.

17. In the case of Import of Gold and Silver against the above category, its imports are now permitted on payment of concessional rate of Customs Duty from their EEPC Account.

18. Rate of entitlement of Special Import Licence has been enhanced for Export/Trading/Star Trading House. Deemed Exporters who do not avail of the facility of the Duty Exemption Scheme shall also be entitled for Special Import Licences at the rate of 5% of FOR value of supply.

19. Import of second-hand capital goods having a residual life of minimum of 5 years may be imported by all Actual Users without a licence.

20. Physically hadicapped persons may now import cars specially designed for them subjects to conditions laid down.

Contingency plan to increase Exports

4299. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a contingency plan to increase exports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Export Promotion is a continuous process and efforts are made to create an environment congenial for increase in exports on a continuing basis. In consultation with trade promotion organisations, such as Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards annual export targets are fixed keeping the export prospects in view. During 1993-94, an export growth target of about 20% in dollar terms was fixed which is likely to be achieved.

Tobacco Production

4300. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco production has registered an increase during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that after the disintegration of the USSR the tobacco production suffered great loss as the USSR was the main buyer of our tobacco;

(c) the extent of increase in tobacco production during 1992-93;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government had suggested to the tobacco producers to switchover to other crops;

(e) whether it is a fact that the tobacco crop is likely to be reduced during 1993 and 1994;

(f) the total tobacco exported during 1992-93, 1993-94 and likely to be imported during 1994-95 and the names of the States where the tobacco crop has been changed; and

(g) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to impose Luxury Tax on tobacco products in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) and (e) The FCV tobacco production in the country and the quantities purchased by the e.stwhile USSR (now CIS)